

For Immediate Release

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July 9, 2009

201-222-2828

*Funding included for key women's and children's health programs*

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Sires supported H.R. 2997, the fiscal year 2010 Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration Appropriations bill, which passed the House by a vote of 266 to 160. The bill makes a number of key investments to protect public health and aid low income households: \$3 billion for the Food and Drug Administration, \$7.5 billion for Nutrition for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and \$180 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

“I am very pleased that the Commodity Supplemental Food Program was expanded to include New Jersey,” said Congressman Sires. “The \$180 million included in the bill is critical to providing nutritious food to low-income women, infants, children and elderly during this period of economic stress and will help bring relief to families struggling with rising food costs.”

Funding for H.R. 2997 totals \$22.9 billion and also includes \$7.5 billion in needed funding for the WIC program, which helps provide proper funding and nutrition to mothers and their children. The bill also features \$125 million for program improvements including fruit and vegetable vouchers and expanding nutrition education programs for mothers.

H.R. 2997 now awaits Senate action.